

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER FOR POLAD
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT FOR POLAD
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, CY, US
SUBJECT: GREEK CYPRIOT EXPECTATIONS FROM NEW ADMINISTRATION
REMAIN HIGH

REF: NICOSIA 0208 (DTG 220612Z JAN 77)

1. SUMMARY. FONMIN CHRISTOPHIDES ANNOUNCES PROBABILITY OF AMERI-
CAN "EXPLORATORY MISSION" TO STUDY POSSIBLE SOLUTION TO CYPRUS
PROBLEM. NEWSPAPER REPORTS AND EDITORIALS KEEP GREEK CYPRIOT
ATTENTION EXPECTANTLY FOCUSED ON WASHINGTON. TURKISH CYPRIOT
PRESS REMAINS MUTED ON POSSIBLE AMERICAN INITIATIVE. END
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SUMMARY.

2. GOC FOREIGN MINISTER CHRISTOPHIDES ANSWERED PRESS
QUESTIONS JANUARY 24 AT AIRPORT BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE TO
ATTEND COUNCIL OF EUROPE MINISTERS MEETING IN STRASBOURG.
ASKED WHAT DEVELOPMENTS AND INITIATIVES WERE EXPECTED ON THE
INTERNATIONAL SCENE IN CONNECTION WITH THE CYPRUS PROBLEM,

HE NOTED THAT THERE ARE "VARIOUS CONVERGING REPORTS ACCORDING TO WHICH AN EXPLORATORY MISSION WOULD COME TO CYPRUS ON BEHALF OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT TO LOOK INTO THE POSSIBILITIES OF A SOLUTION TO THE CYPRUS PROBLEM." HE PREDICTED THAT "IN ALL PROBABILITY" THE MISSION WILL COME TO CYPRUS AFTER VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE RETURNS TO WASHINGTON AND THAT ANY AMERICAN INITIATIVE ON CYPRUS WOULD DEPEND ON OUTCOME OF THIS EXPLORATORY MISSION.

3. AT NOON JANUARY 25 GOC PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE TELEPHONED USIS NICOSIA TO ASK WHETHER FORTHCOMING MISSION FROM U.S. SHOULD BE CHARACTERIZED AS A "FACT-FINDING MISSION." WE REPLIED THAT WE HAD NO INFORMATION CONCERNING DESIGNATION OR MANDATE OF ANY MISSION TO CYPRUS OTHER THAN PRESS REPORTS ATTRIBUTED TO UNNAMED AMERICAN SPOKESMAN. GOC APPARENTLY SETTLED ON "EXPLORATORY MISSION" AS APPROPRIATELY NEUTRAL DESIGNATION.

4. COMMENT: FONMIN CHRISTOPHIDES' RESPONSE AT AIRPORT IS ONLY LATEST OF MANY INDICATIONS OF GREEK CYPRIOT EXPECTATIONS FROM NEW ADMINISTRATION. OTHERS ARE PROMINENT COVERAGE IN GREEK CYPRIOT PRESS AND RADIO JANUARY 25 OF NEWS REPORTS FROM BRUSSELS THAT VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE HAS SAID THAT SECRETARY VANCE WILL MOMENTARILY MAKE STATEMENT INDICATING U.S. WILL TAKE CONCRETE ACTION ON CYPRUS. NEWSPAPER EDITORIALS HAVE CONTINUED TO FUEL THE EXPECTATIONS RAISED BY INAUGURATION (REFTEL). PRO-CLERIDES PRESS HAD TIED COMMENTS ON AMERICAN-EEC INITIATIVE TO CLERIDES' CURRENT TRIP TO WASHINGTON AND EUROPE. PRO-MAKARIOS PRESS HAS REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED FAITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN PRESIDENT CARTER'S SINCERITY AND HIS DETERMINATION TO FULFILL CAMPAIGN PROMISES. COMMUNIST AND PRO-LYSSARIDES PAPERS ARE STILL EXPRESSING MISGIVINGS ABOUT NEW ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY, PREDICTING RESULTS OF ANY U.S. INITIATIVE WILL BE TANTAMOUNT TO PARTITION, WILL BE OUTSIDE FRAMEWORK OF UN RESOLUTIONS AND WILL ONLY SERVE INTERESTS OF NATO PLANNERS. TURK CYPRIOT PRESS, PREOCCUPIED WITH EUROPEAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION REPORT CRITICAL OF TURKEY, HAS AVOIDED SPECULATION AND LARGELY LIMITED COMMENT TO REASSURING READERS THAT WHEN NEW TEM IN WASHINGTON HAS FAIRLY AND THOROUGHLY STUDIED CYPRUS PROBLEM, GREEK CYPRIOTS WILL BE DISAPPOINTED BY CONCLUSIONS. CRAWFORD

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